

## STATE'S WAR HISTORY

### HOW A REAL "HISTORY FACTORY" WILL PRESERVE NORTH CAROLINA'S WAR RECORDS

By Fred. A. Olds

In the State Administration building, on the south side of the Capitol Square, there is a real "history factory," to use the expression of a little Raleigh school girl. On the fourth floor Dr. D. H. Hill, son of Lt. Gen. D. H. Hill, and for many years a professor and then president of the State Agricultural and Mechanical College, is hard at work on what will be a real history of the War Between the States, 1861-65. He expects to finish the work next year.

On the second floor Mr. Robert B. House, of Halifax county, a graduate of the University of North Carolina and of Harvard University, and who served in France with the American Expeditionary Forces, in the 103d Infantry, 26th division, is collecting a mass of material covering North Carolina's part in the World War, 1917-18. This State is preserving its war records through a special Department of World War Records created within the North Carolina Historical Commission by the General Assembly of 1919. This department did not spring up fullgrown in the Historical Commission, nor did the work of preserving war records await the creation of this department. The whole enterprise is a development from work instituted within the Historical Commission itself, carried on by the Historical Committee of the North Carolina Council of Defense, and eventually turned over to the Department of World War Records, under Mr. House as the special collector employed under the law by the Historical Commission. The general work of the Historical Commission, until the appointment of the Collector of War Records, has been, first, to teach the people of the state just what war records ought to be preserved, and, secondly, to organize the various counties of the state in such a way as to make this' collection of war records systematic. Gratifying success has met the efforts of the Historical Commission so far, which has organized sixty-five counties to carry on the work.

The general plan is collecting as fully as possible documents, reports, records of all kinds; will use these documents for the publication of a history as soon as possible; but will continue collecting records which will serve to revise this history as it may be necessary. Collector House has as his duty the survey of all probable sources of war records and materials; to assemble these in the archives of the Historical Commission; to classify and arrange them; and eventually to publish from them a complete history of North Carolina in the great World War, which will treat of the following general heads:

A. Operations of the United States government in North Carolina. b. Operations of the North Carolina State government in war c. Operations of county and governments. d. War work of volunteer organizations. e. Military, naval, and air service of North Carolina units and of individual North Carolina soldiers, sailors, and airmen. f. Organization and services of the Home Defense. g. A roster of North Carolina soldiers, sailors, and airmen. h. Services of North Carolinians in national affairs. i. Effects of the war on agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, finance, trade, and commerce in North Carolina. j. Social and welfare work among the soldiers and their dependents. k. Contributions of schools and churches to the war and the effect of the war on education and religion. l. Such other phases of the war as may be necessary to set forth the contributions of the State and its people to this momentous event in the world's history.

The watchword of the Historical Commission is documents. A document is anything which preserves a record, and the documents which preserve North Carolina's World War records are sought under two general heads (1) Statistics, reports and histories to be compiled of individuals and organizations which performed any kind of war service. Complete records of soldiers, sailors, airmen, doctors, nurses, etc., are of course sought as paramount. Likewise reports are sought of work done by such organizations as the Council of Defense, Food Administration, Fuel Administration, Draft Board, Red Cross, etc., organizations that operated in every county